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1. Reunited

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Sandgorse glared at his son for probably a whole season to pass without him looking away. "For one second in Starclan, can you stop pacing around waiting for your 'mate' to appear!" He snapped, startling Tallstar. The black and white tom hadn't meant to annoy his father, but he wanted to see Jake so badly. He hadn't seen him since he lead him to Starclan. Maybe something was holding him up, or he couldn't visit him any longer. Did Starclan just not allow Jake to see him at the border? Surely Tallstar couldn't leave Starclan's borders without eventually running into the Dark Forest.

Maybe Jake had just forgotten him during their time away. Even though it would pain Tallstar if Jake stayed away for the rest of his time before eventually fading from the minds of the living cats, Tallstar didn't hold anything against him. Tallstar loved him, considered Jake his best friend, mate through life, even after they parted ways.

The Great Battle had happened not even two seasons ago, and many cats that died had not appeared in Starclan's territory. One of which was Firestar, the noble leader of Thunderclan that had perished due to his wounds that the wicked and foul Tigerstar dealt him during the battle that would decide the fate of all the clans. The flame colored tom's spirit hadn't made its way up, even though during the Great Battle it was seen on its way to Starclan.

Tallstar worried for the tom, even though he saw him at Bramblestar's Leader Ceremony. He could've swore that on the edges of Starclan he could see the tom's flame colored pelt, but only a glimpse of it. Starclan may have decided to give rebirth to the leader for the next generation of cats as hard times were coming. However, it seemed that option was unlikely due to the whole situation with Cinderpelt.

It wasn't like it happened before, as Gray Wing the Wise was reincarnated into a female medicine cat of Riverclan by the same name, Graywing. She was one of the reasons that part of the

warrior code was implemented. The rule stated that no kit may be ignored if in need, even if it comes from another clan. It was instated when Graywing of Riverclan watched kits drown in the river because they were not of her clan. One of the kits would've been the next leader of Windclan, as he was named leader when he arrived in Starclan's borders.

"Tallstar, are you alright? You haven't looked quite right recently." His mother, Palebird meowed to him quietly padded up towards him. The stars in her pelt seemed to twinkle more brightly as she drew nearer towards Tallstar. Her gaze was soft towards her son who tried to calm himself in front of the elderly Starclan she-cat.

"I'm sorry Palebird, but I'm worried about Firestar. Shouldn't he have arrived here with a few other warriors by now? It's been a few moons since The Great Battle." Tallstar meowed, looking directly into Palebird's forest green eyes. "You shouldn't worry about Firestar. There might be something he has to do before being able to join us." Tallstar sighed and nodded to his mother. "I know that's not the only thing on your mind. Are you thinking about the kittypet again?"

Tallstar's sleek pelt wasn't so sleek anymore as his neck fur fluffed up in embarrassment. "Tallstar, don't worry about it. He'll come back to you one day. Maybe he was reborn as another kittypet. If he was lucky, possibly a cat in Windclan. He did share a lot of ties with the clans you know." She purred to her son and let her tail rest on his shoulder. "I would just give it time Tallstar. Watch over the cats alive and guide them as they once did for you." Palebird padded away from Tallstar towards Woollytail in the distant moor of Starclan.

Oh do I wish I could give them better advice. Last time I did Onestar had to kill one of the most loyal deputies to ever serve underneath me. Tallstar thought, regretting a little that Onestar had to kill Mudclaw. Ambitious or not, Onestar has led as best he could and Tallstar wouldn't have asked for a better leader to lead Windclan. Onestar was however gaining many moons quickly, and it wouldn't be long before he joined the ranks of Starclan.

Maybe that's where Firestar was. Bramblestar had seemed to in his

first few moons as leader to gain the respect of his clanmates easily. They would follow him even if they had to jump off a cliff into a river if he commanded it. It was something that every leader needed, and they seemed hereditary to every Thunderclan leader. Bluestar's last life was a bit shaky in her control over her clan, but other than that she commanded the legion of warriors with great paws. It was something Tallstar admired of Thunderclan, yet in recent years it seems shaky within Windclan's borders.

Tallstar shook off the thought of Windclan being hostile to the clan that brought them home. It was only able to come home thanks to Firestar -Fireheart at the time- accompanied by Graystripe convincing Tallstar to return to the forest. On the way back, he looked out for Jake, yet the tom was nowhere to be seen in his blocked off territory. It seemed Jake had disappeared after he left from Tallstar's sight many moons ago when he was still called Talltail.

Sandgorse called out to Tallstar. "The gathering is tonight Tallstar, not in another season." It snapped Tallstar out of his trance and he padded towards his father. Tallstar glanced over his shoulder to make sure Palebird was behind him and he could've sworn he saw the flame colored pelt in the distance. No time to inspect it now, they needed to be at the gathering to watch over the living cats.

Tallstar took his place and looked down to the living world. The clans looked lonely without their loved ones with them anymore. So many cats haven't come like Webfoot, Sunstrike, Robinwing, Cedarheart and Hollyleaf. In remembrance of them, a leader each gathering would say the names of those who had fallen to The Great Battle.

Yet this gathering, was different. Bramblestar asked for it not to be recited, that the cats would live on through memories. It seemed to free the spirits of the cats and they were being led by a cat to Starclan. Tallstar could've recognized him from across the lake and he still would've known it was him. It was Jake. Not just any old kittypet named Jake either, but *his* Jake. Tallstar took off running towards and jumped at him. Jake yelled at Tallstar's sudden attack, yet didn't mind it. "If this is the welcoming I get every time I don't see you I'll make sure to stay away more often."

"If you do I'll make sure you'll never forget it." Tallstar glared at Jake harshly then licked the top of his head. "Fine Tallstar. I won't do that, but I have a request to Starclan." Tallstar nodded, confused yet he let go of Jake but stayed right next to him. Firestar, Webfoot, Sunstrike and many other warriors trailed behind Jake and Tallstar, and he couldn't feel any happier to be in Jake's presence. Jake stopped at the edge of Starclan and Tallstar stayed with him. "I don't want to go without you Jake. I spent far too long without you to go and leave you." His meow was shaky with emotion and he buried his face in Jake's neck scruff.

Jake's scent was of the old forest and of twolegs, yet were the perfect mix together for Tallstar. He soaked it in for as long as he could, not willing himself to pull away from Jake. "That's what I was going to ask Starclan about. I don't want to linger on the edges, but rather be with you for eternity Tallstar." Jake nuzzled Tallstar. "If they don't accept, they have another battle coming for them." He purred jokingly to Jake.

"We heard what you spoke Jake, father of Firestar and mate of Tallstar." Jake and Tallstar tore apart immediately to the sound of Bluestar. Raggedstar, Crookedstar, and many other leaders from their time in the forest surrounded them. He could've sworn he saw the faint outlines of Windstar and Gray Wing the Wise in the distance. "Jake, you may join us in Starclan's hunting grounds. Tallstar doesn't need to trail on the edges whenever he wishes to be with you." The leaders dispersed away from Tallstar and Jake quickly, hoping to not see anything they would rather not.

Even thought every cat hadn't returned, Tallstar knew that they would all return in due time. At the moment, all he could think about was Jake, the one cat he would love for the rest of time. Tallstar's heart swelled at the fact and Jake licked the top of Tallstar's head. "You ready to spend all of eternity with me Tallstar?" Jake purred into Tallstar's ear. "Being reunited forever in Starclan? Any day Jake. Any day."